



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

September 4, 2019

Peter Rogoff
Chief Executive Officer
Sound Transit

Dear Mr. Rogoff:

It is my understanding that Sound Transit fare enforcement officers may have been issuing warnings to students riding Link light rail on the first day of school. While I understand and appreciate that Sound Transit is not ticketing students, warnings still generate citations and contribute to a potential future fee for a student.

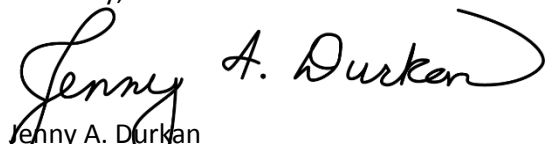
In 2018, Seattle created the ORCA Opportunity program so that students wouldn't have to worry about how to get around, and could focus more on their studies. We were one of the first cities in the country to invest in free transit for our young people to ensure we were creating a generation of transit riders.

As you are aware, some students have already received their cards at orientation but some students did not receive their cards until school began. We know that, unfortunately, fare enforcement disproportionately impacts communities of color, and the students most likely not to have received temporary cards are the kids already facing the highest educational barriers in the first place.

In addition to Sound Transit's assurance that students were not ticketed today, I am asking Sound Transit to expunge any warnings issued to students during this first week of school. I am also hopeful that you can ensure all fare enforcement officers understand that Seattle students will be receiving their ORCA cards this week.

We value our partnership that allows Seattle students to utilize Link light rail, and we will continue to work with our transit partners as well as Seattle Public Schools to ensure a successful and robust program that allows our high school students to use their free year-round passport to get to school, work, and all across our region.

Sincerely,



Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle